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The illustrations are well chosen and admirably adapted to illuminate the difficult points in the text. Many of them are of simple but ingenious apparatus which the pupil can readily make for himself. Another feature of the book which cannot fail to increase its attractiveness is the collection of portraits of notable physicists.

The authors in their preface set themselves the task of preparing a "readable," "informational," "humanized" presentation of the subject of physics. They are to be congratulated on having so well accomplished the task they set themselves. The book can be used to advantage with any laboratory manual to round out a comprehensive course, is suitable for schools that have limited laboratory facilities and will be an excellent book to supplement many of the texts now in use.

WILLIAM H. SNYDER

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*Famous Geometrical Theorems and Problems with their History. Parts I and II.* Boston. D. C. Heath & Co. 10 cents each.

IN these two pamphlets the author has collected a number of proofs that the sum of the angles of a triangle is two right angles, that the square on the hypotenuse of a right angle is equal to the sum of the squares on the sides, and has made a number of remarks on the quadrature of the circle.

The thing attempted: viz., to supply teachers of mathematics with monographs which will assist them to obtain a more connected view of the elementary part of their science, deserves to be done and to be well done. This end cannot be reached by making a compilation of alternative proofs of propositions or by accumulating personal items which, however interesting, have nothing to do with science. The writer has made both of these mistakes. He gives twenty-six proofs of the proposition on the right triangle, of which four or five are interesting. The really valuable information which he gives on the history of the quadrature of the circle might have been stated in five pages out of the twenty which are given, ten of them being wasted on the vagaries of one circle squarer who happened to be unusually audacious.

A serious defect of these pamphlets is that they are not very clear. The seeker after scientific information will have to hunt it out and piece it together. The author has sought to create interest in mathematics by the help of things outside mathematics and it is natural that he should have neglected what ought to have been his subject. An interest so created will be factitious and in the end disappointing. The preface can however be recommended since it contains a number of references to standard books on the history of mathematics.

J. H. McDONALD

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*On Southern Poetry Prior to 1860.* By S. E. BRADSHAW. The B. F. Johnson Publishing Co., 1900.

*On Southern Poetry Prior to 1860* is the title of a thesis presented to the University of Virginia by Sidney Ernest Bradshaw. As published it makes up a volume of 160 pages, including a table of chronology and the bibliography. The period selected for review is from 1607 to 1860—or from the settlement of Jamestown to near the outbreak of the Civil War. Without drawing distinctions too narrowly a southern author is understood to be one who was born or whose work was done or